

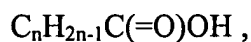
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method for preparing metal salts of unsaturated, short-chain carboxylic acids by reacting in a solution

- a metal-alcoholate compound and
- a compound selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids of the general formula:



wherein the double bond is in the 2- or 3-position and

n represents 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, maleic acid and mixtures thereof, in the presence of oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), which is continuously fed so that ~~its concentration in~~ the reaction solution is at least 50 % oxygen-saturated, to produce metal salts having at least one group of the formula



and a metal (M) selected from the group consisting of

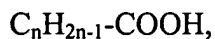
Al, Si, Sn, La, Zr, Cu and Zn and mixtures thereof.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, characterized in that oxygen is continuously fed so that the reaction solution is at least 90 % oxygen-saturated.

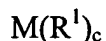
23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, characterized in that the metal salts have the general formula



and can be obtained by reaction of a linear or branched, unsaturated carboxylic acid of the formula



wherein n represents 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 with the double bond in 2- or 3-position, preferably in 2-position, with a metal compound of the general formula



and, optionally,



wherein

a is at least 1,

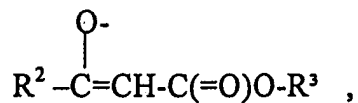
b is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

(a+b) and c are independently of one another an integer of 2 to 4,

$R^1$  represents an alcoholate group having a  $C_1$  - to  $C_6$  hydrocarbon residue,

wherein  $R^1$  is a saturated, linear or branched alcoholate group, which can be obtained from an alcohol having at least one -OH group, wherein the -OH groups are preferably primary or secondary -OH groups,

or



wherein  $R^2$  and respectively  $R^3$  represent  $-CH_3$ ,  $-C_2H_5$ ,  $-C_3H_7$  or  $-C_4H_9$  and n,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  may be different for each a, b, and c and at least one  $R^1$  in  $M(R^1)_c$  represents an alcoholate group having a  $C_1$  - to  $C_6$  hydrocarbon residue.

24. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the reaction is carried out in the presence of continuously fed oxygen in a gas mixture containing the oxygen in a concentration from 5 to 30, preferably 15 to 25 vol%.
25. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at temperatures from 0 to 150 °C, preferably 20 to 100 °C.
26. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at pressures from  $bar_{abs}$  to 0.01  $bar_{abs}$ .
27. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the reaction is carried out without a solvent.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the reaction is carried out in at least one of the following solvents: hydrocarbons, esters, ethers, glycols, and glycol mono- or diethers.
29. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the carboxylic acid is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.
30. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the metal M is Al, Si, Sn, La, Zr, or Cu, particularly aluminium and/or zirconium, preferably aluminium.
31. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the metal compound is a metal alcoholate.
32. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to any one of claim 21, characterized in that the reaction is carried out in the absence of water (less than 100 ppm).
33. **(Previously Presented)** A coating or additive for coatings and rubbers comprising a metal salt, according to claim 21, having at least one unsaturated carboxyl group with 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the carboxyl group or the reaction products thereof.

34.       **(Previously Presented)** A coating for leather, glass, ceramics, paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and textiles comprising a metal salt according to claim 21.
35.       **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising a metal salt according to claim 21 having at least one unsaturated carboxyl group with 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the carboxyl group as a monomer, particularly a co-monomer used in polymerizations, especially free radical and/or photoinitiated polymerizations.
36.       **(Previously Presented)** An additive for use in radiation-curing adhesives- or plastics compositions, particularly UV-curing ones, each of which furthermore can contain photoinitiators, particularly UV initiators comprising a metal salt according to claim 21 having at least one unsaturated carboxyl group with 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the carboxyl group.
37.       **(Previously Presented)** An additive for use in printing-ink compositions, particularly as a radiation-curing monomer, comprising a metal salt according to claim 21 having at least one unsaturated carboxyl group with 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the carboxyl group
38.       **(Previously Presented)** A rheology modifier, particularly in printing-ink resins comprising a metal salt according to claim 21 having at least one

unsaturated carboxyl group with 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the carboxyl group or the reaction products thereof.

39. **(Previously Presented)** A barrier coating or additive therefore for foils preventing permeation of oxygen and/or water comprising a metal salt according to claim 21 having at least one unsaturated carboxyl group with 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the carboxyl group or the reaction products thereof.

40. **(Previously Presented)** A composition of any one of claims 33 to 39, characterized in that the composition containing said metal salt additionally contains

- 1 to 5 wt.% photoinitiators, particularly aromatic ketones, optionally alkylated and/or alkoxyated ones, preferably with C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl- and/or alkoxyate groups, and/or
- 0.05 to 2 wt.% UV- and/or radical stabilizers, particularly alkylated and/or alkoxyated hydroxy aromatics, preferably phenols and independently thereof having C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl- and/or alkoxyate groups.